

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 096178

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, SO

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SIAD RE ARMS FOR SOMALIA

I. IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE AMBIGUITIES IN THE SOMALI
ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN MOOSE LETTER OF
MARCH 22, WE ARE PROVIDING BELOW THE TEXT OF A LETTER FOR
YOU TO SIGN AND PRESENT TO PRESIDENT SIAD AND TALKING
POINTS FOR YOUR USE ON THAT OCCASION. IN VIEW OF THE
RECENT COUP ATTEMPT, WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT YOUR APPROACH MIGHT BE LINKED TO THAT EVENT. WE

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WOULD NOT WANT TO PUT OURSELVES IN THE POSITION WHERE ANY
ACTION OF OURS WOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE OF INTERPRETATION AS
INTERFERENCE IN A DOMESTIC DISPUTE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE
DO NOT WANT TO SO PROLONG THE DELAY IN OUR FOLLOWUP TO THE
MOOSE MISSION AS TO GIVE SIAD GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION THAT
WE HELD OFF IN THE HOPE OF DEALING WITH A MORE ACCEPTABLE
SOMALI LEADER. WE RELY ON YOUR JUDGMENT ON THE TIMING OF

THE APPROACH.

2. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTIONS, IN WHICH CASE YOU SHOULD CABLE YOUR VIEWS IMMEDIATELY, TEXT OF LETTER SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE DISCUSSIONS RECENTLY CONCLUDED BETWEEN YOU AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPECIAL EMISSARY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LAYING THE BASIS FOR A FUTURE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM YOU THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS, MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO INITIATE THE STEPS REQUIRED UNDER UNITED STATES LAW FOR THE FURNISHING OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES TO THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE SEEKING OF THE REQUISITE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGRESS. ON MARCH 23, 1978 MR. MOOSE WROTE YOU REQUESTING ASSURANCES THAT SOMALIA WOULD UNDERTAKE TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY, EXCEPT FOR THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF THE INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED TERRITORY OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND, FURTHER, WOULD ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN MR. MOOSE'S LETTER CONCERNING THE USE, TRANSFER, AND SECURITY OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES FURNISHED BY THE UNITED STATES.

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IN YOUR REPLY, TRANSMITTED TO HIM ON MARCH 23, YOU STATED THAT THE POLITBURO OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY ACCEPTED THESE CONDITIONS IN PRINCIPLE. IN ORDER TO PROCEED AT THIS TIME, MY GOVERNMENT WILL NEED WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ACCEPTS THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN MR. MOOSE'S LETTER.

YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS LETTER AND ASSURANCES THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WILL OBSERVE THE UNDERTAKINGS AND CONDITIONS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ARE PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE IN PRESENTING LETTER TO PRESIDENT SIAD:

A. THE PRESIDENT WAS GRATIFIED THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN YOU AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LAYING THE BASIS FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE PRESIDENT WAS IMPRESSED BY YOUR FRANKNESS IN DESCRIBING THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WHICH CONFRONT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS IN DEFINING YOUR NEEDS. WE ARE PREPARED TO

MOVE QUICKLY TO PROVIDE TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT.

B. THE US ACCORDINGLY IS NOW PREPARED TO BEGIN THE STEPS REQUIRED UNDER US LAW TO FURNISH DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES TO THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST STEP WILL BE

FOR SECRETARY VANCE TO SUBMIT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S SIGNATURE A FORMAL DETERMINATION OF SOMALIA'S ELIGIBILITY FOR FMS. IN ORDER FOR THIS DETERMINATION TO BE SIGNED AND AS THE NEXT STEP FOLLOWING THE POLITBURO'S ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF THE CONDITIONS STATED IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE'S LETTER OF 22/3/78, WE WILL REQUIRE SPECIFIC ASSURANCES FROM THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT
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THAT IT WILL REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ANY COUNTRY AND WILL ACCEPT THE OTHER CONDITIONS GIVEN IN MR. MOOSE'S LETTER. WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTY IN SOMALIA, BUT AS A PRACTICAL, LEGAL MATTER WE NEED CLEAR-CUT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE SIMPLEST, EASIEST FORM OF SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD BE A BRIEF REPLY FROM YOU TO MY LETTER EXPRESSING THE UNDERTAKING OF THE GSDR TO ABIDE BY THESE ASSURANCES. WE WILL INFORM CONGRESS OF THESE EXCHANGES BETWEEN US AND WILL PLAN TO INDICATE PUBLICLY THAT WE CONSIDER THE CONDITIONS SOUGHT BY THE PRESIDENT TO HAVE BEEN MET.

C. ONCE WE HAVE YOUR WRITTEN REPLY PROVIDING THESE ASSURANCES THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WILL OBSERVE THE UNDERTAKINGS AND CONDITIONS REFERRED TO IN MY LETTER, WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE PROMPTLY TO DELIVER AN INITIAL IMPACT PACKAGE OF MILITARY ITEMS. YOU WILL RECALL THAT MR. MOOSE MENTIONED A US NON-LETHAL FMS MILITARY PACKAGE VALUED AT DOLS 10 MILLION TO BE PROVIDED SOMALIA IF A BASIC UNDERSTANDING COULD BE ACHIEVED. WE HAVE RE-EXAMINED THIS PACKAGE IN THE LIGHT OF MR. MOOSE'S TALKS WITH YOU AND ARE NOW PREPARED TO INCREASE THIS INITIAL PACKAGE TO US DOLS 15 MILLION, THE ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO INCLUDE DEFENSIVE ARMS, SPECIFICALLY ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, AND AMMUNITION. THIS PACKAGE IS COMPOSED OF THOSE ITEMS WHICH WE CAN PROVIDE PROMPTLY. WE BELIEVE THAT IT CONSTITUTES CLEAR AND UNMISTAKEABLE EVIDENCE OF OUR DESIRE TO SUPPORT SOMALIA IN MEETING ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE NEEDS. WE BELIEVE THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE WOULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP. (BY SEPTTEL WE ARE SENDING YOU A PRECISE BREAK-DOWN OF THE ITEMS COMPRISING THE
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IMPACT PACKAGE.)

D. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF US MILITARY EXPERTS VISIT SOMALIA TO DISCUSS SOMALIA'S DEFENSIVE NEEDS. AS EXPLAINED TO YOU BY MR. MOOSE, THE USG WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE CERTAIN TYPES OF EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, A SURVEY TEAM COULD PROVIDE US WITH THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR STUDYING

SOMALIA'S IMMEDIATE AND LONG-RANGE REQUIREMENTS. THE TEAM'S FINDINGS WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A BASIS FROM WHICH WE COULD IDENTIFY SOME OF SOMALIA'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS BEYOND THE INITIAL IMPACT PACKAGE. THE TEAM'S SURVEY WOULD ALSO HELP US JUSTIFY TO CONGRESS FUTURE ARMS SALES TO SOMALIA AND STIMULATE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR APPROVAL. ACCORDINGLY, WE ASK THAT YOU RECONSIDER OUR PROPOSAL TO SEND A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA AND THUS FACILITATE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE.

E. WE UNDERSTAND YOUR NEED FOR ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS. WE REGRET WE DO NOT HAVE APPROPRIATE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME FOR TRANSFER TO YOUR GOVERNMENT. (FYI: THE US NO LONGER RELIES PRIMARILY ON STATIONARY ANTI-AIRCRAFT OR MISSILES FOR THIS MISSION.) THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY IS EXCELLENT. IN THE INTEREST OF ENSURING THAT THIS NEED IS MET IN THE MOST TIMELY FASHION POSSIBLE, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES WAYS IN WHICH ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY ONES COMPATIBLE WITH SOMALIA'S CURRENT ARSENAL, MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE QUICKLY BY THEM FOR SOMALIA'S DEFENSIVE USE.

4. IF ASKED BY SIAD ABOUT FINANCING, YOU SHOULD RECALL THAT MR. MOOSE MENTIONED TO HIM THAT, THROUGH REALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM OTHER COUNTRY PROGRAMS, WE ARE IN A SECRET

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POSITION TO OFFER UP TO DOLS 10 MILLION IN FMS FINANCING (FMS GUARANTEED LOANS BY FEDERAL FINANCING BANK). (FYI: IF SIAD PRESSES ON FINANCING, YOU MAY NOTE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE SUPPORT THE US IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SOMALIA, AND ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF THE PACKAGE AS WELL AS ITEMS IN A LONGER-RANGE PROGRAM.) CHRISTOPHER

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